

SOUTH PARK REVITALIZATION

CHANGING DIRECTIONS

A HOPE VI NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE SOUTH PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

SUMMER EDITION 2003



HOPE VI CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction is starting at a site near you! In August, we continued with the construction component of the South Park Neighborhood Revitalization effort. The construction component is designed to improve the living conditions for public housing, and the area residents. For example, the 17-unit public housing complex, which was located on 39th Street, has been demolished to make room for affordable homeownership units to be built by the Tucson Urban League. Also, rehabilitation and construction of the 28 Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) public housing units, the neighborhood Credit Union / Wellness Center, and 20 new lease purchase homes are scheduled to start in the month of August as well. Keep an eye on all the great things that are happening in your neighborhood!



Weed & Seed together to cultivate a healthy Community

Status of Four Weed & Seed Components 7/8/03 update for U.S. Attorney's Office

Although the Kino Weed & Seed Coalition Steering Committee has not met regularly this summer, a lot has been done toward accomplishing goals in each of the four elements of our Weed & Seed strategy. Lt. Roger Carrillo is our primary liaison with the Tucson Police Department. He is currently working on realigning a more productive task force to be involved in any upcoming sweeps in the four neighborhoods. **Law enforcement** efforts in the area have been aided by the partnerships we have. The latest plan, being developed, calls for a much closer relationship with GITEM. Because Lt. Carrillo took the time to actually demonstrate a piece of equipment that will be purchased, **community policing** has been strengthened. Lt. Carrillo attends almost every Steering Committee meeting, and is accompanied by two officers that are

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assigned specifically to the four neighborhoods. These officers have also become part of the community and are trusted. They attended a gang conference in California in July. Information from the conference will be used in planning for both strategy elements. **Prevention, intervention, and treatment** activities have continued by way of summer school activities in two of our Safe Havens, and teen activities in a third Safe Haven. Contracts have been signed with almost all service providers that have a subgrantee status. DEFY camp was July 21-25. We hold a joint effort camp (Westside, South Tucson, and Kino) with our Drug Demand Reduction unit of the Arizona National Guard. This summer, **community restoration** has been primarily a process of helping the Steering Committee really, truly get organized. Kino Weed & Seed Coalition was chosen by CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) to participate in their Greenhouse Project to assist developing coalitions. Three residents are part of our Greenhouse team and have already realized the amount of responsibility (and work) it will take to honestly do what we said we would in our Weed & Seed Strategy.

SOUTH PARK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT **BY BEN BUEHLER-GARCIA**

Strengthening Area Businesses Focus of HOPE VI/ Tucson Urban League Program

Successful and thriving businesses are an essential component of a healthy neighborhood. Businesses provide needed products & services, create jobs for neighborhood residents and contribute to our community's tax base.

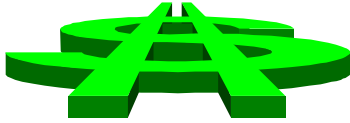
In order to help secure a diverse and vigorous business base in the South Park neighborhood, the City of Tucson HOPE VI project in conjunction with the Tucson Urban League have undertaken a special training program for area entrepreneurs. The specific topics include market research, finance, presentation skills, marketing and business plan development.

If you would like more information on the South Park Entrepreneurship program, contact Jacque Thompson at the Tucson Urban League, 791-9522.

SOUTH PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

All South Park Neighborhood residents should come to SPNA meetings, so they'll know what's happening in the neighborhood. Officers from TPD are in attendance to report on criminal activity and listen to residents. Other City departments, including the Ward V office, send representatives to pass along information and respond to questions. All residents are welcome to come. Meetings are held at Quincie Douglas (36th and Kino) on the first Monday of every month, at 6:30 p.m.

**ARIZONA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION OFFERS
COMPLETE FINANCIAL SERVICES TO ALL AREA
RESIDENTS AND NEW LOW MORTGAGE & CAR
LOAN RATES**



AzFCU's neighborhood office has been moved to 1124 East Silverlake Road while the old office is remodeled. The temporary office is right across the street from Mirasol Park. Office hours are the same, from noon until 5 p.m., except Friday, when it's 6 p.m.

A new policy on new accounts makes it possible for anyone who opens an account to also open a checking account. Positive identification is required and will be carefully checked, due to the frequency of identity theft these days.

Still available are the Smart Money accounts for teens (12 to 17) which can include checking and an ATM access card. Younger children can have their own savings account at the credit union. The Dollar Dot accounts all receive a newsletter with puzzles and encouragement to save their money, and receive a gift after every three deposits.

Are you thinking of buying a car? New and used cars can be financed through the credit union— Re-financing of vehicles is also available and there are even lower rates for purchasing AzFCU repossessed vehicles. Go to the web site (www.azfcu.org) for more information on bidding on repos.

Remember, this is OUR credit union, since the members are the owners! Be sure to try the credit union FIRST for any of your financial service ne

Community and Supportive Services:

What's Happening in HOPE VI - South Park



In the last quarter, (Maria Morales) an FSS HOPE VI participant has been employed by The City of Tucson Housing Management Division for more than a 1 year. In July Maria along with other Public Housing residents were awarded computers by the Desert Waste Not Warehouse, Congratulations!

Camp Fire USA sponsored Downtown Teens in Action a group where Teens in Action celebrate the notion that young people are a key to today and are making a difference in communities nation wide. A South Park youth participated in the Camp Fire's summer program "Downtown Teens in Action" and the youth hopes to start a Teens in Action Group in his neighborhood.

AFI Program Promotes Savings

The *AFI Program of Tucson* can help you achieve your goal of owning a home, starting a small business, or going back to school. Here's how it works: you save a small amount of your earned income every month and deposit it into an account. When you're ready to buy your asset, the program triples your savings and the total amount goes towards your purchase. You also attend free classes, which help you set up a budget, clean up your credit and manage your money.

For more information or to find out if you qualify, call Tom Ingram at 791-4042 x311.



The South Park HOPE VI Advisory Committee meets every quarter on the 4th Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday October 28, 2003. Please come and join us.

**SOUTH PARK NEIGHBORHOOD BACK TO
BASICS**

Over two and half years ago, the South Park Neighborhood Association met at their monthly meeting to discuss the Back to Basics award made by the Mayor and Council. This award, involving \$800,000 in CDBG funds, could be used for public improvements made within the boundaries of the South Park neighborhood.

With the help of the City Staff, the neighborhood came up with an outline as to how to approach the process of making the most out of the B2B funds. The following steps were used to start that process and to bring them to the actual construction stage they are in now:

2. Decide on the process for decision making and who would make the final decision.

- ? Put together a survey for the residents within South Park that would make the final decision.
- ? Mail out over 800 surveys to individual residents.
- ? After receiving the surveys (18%) back-sort out and prioritize the data.
- ? City staff prepared cost estimates for this first look at the groups desired projects.
- ? The Neighborhood followed this process through 5 drafts and reached a final draft that was approved by the Neighborhood Assoc.
- ? Taking this final draft of the projects voted on, City staff put together cost estimates for each item.
- ? These projects were then approved again by the Neighborhood and the final B2B projects were put out to bid.
- ? Contract was awarded and construction has begun.

The following are now under construction and should be complete within 60 days.

- ? New sidewalks and street lights on the south side of Silverlake from Mountain to Kino
- ? New Sidewalks on the south side of Silverlake from Euclid to Park.
- ? New sidewalks and curbs on the north side of 36th St. from Park to the Quincy Douglas Entrance
- ? Speed bumps in Grandview.
- ? Continue the Park Ave improvements on the westside from 36th to 39th.
- ? New sidewalks on eastside of Euclid from 29th to 32nd.
- ? New sidewalks on both sides of Euclid from 32th to 36nd.
- ? New sidewalks and curbs on both sides of Euclid from 36st to 39nd.
- ? New sidewalks and curbs on both sides of 31st and 32nd from Euclid east one block.
- ? Street lights (on wooden poles) at the dead-end of 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th 37th, and 39th.
- ? A volunteer street tree planting program. Owners may request up to two trees.

This project is now under way and is scheduled to be completed by the end of October. After construction is completed phone number will be given to the South Park residents that wish to receive two trees. These trees will be delivered and planted in the property owner's front yard at no expense to the resident. The HOPE VI project is also under way at this time and their will be new curbs and sidewalks on 30th, 33rd, 34th and running one block east from Euclid.



Section 3

Do you need a job? One of the requirements that the construction contracts will have for HOPE VI is that the contractor must either hire residents from the South Park neighborhood who are at or below the 80% area medium income limit (see chart for income eligibility) or pay into a job training fund. If you want to be placed on the Section 3 Job interest list, please fill out the form attached to the back of the mailer page in this newsletter. You must list a phone number where you can be contacted. If that number changes or you no longer desire to work you must contact the HOPE VI office at 791-5364 to let us know. We do not want to provide our contractors a list of people that are not available for work.

Household Size	80% of Area Median Income
1	\$27,550
2	\$31,500
3	\$35,400
4	\$39,750
5	\$42,500
6	\$45,650
7	\$48,800
8 plus	\$51,950



Empowerment Zone

Working with Pima County and the City of South Tucson; the City of Tucson was recently awarded an Empowerment Zone designation from HUD. This designation includes the South Park Neighborhood. Now what does that mean for you as a zone resident? First, if you live and work in the Zone, your employer may be able to get a tax credit of up to \$3,000 every year for having you on the payroll. Second, if you are aged 16-24 and looking for a job, the person that hires you can receive a tax credit of 40% of the first \$6,000 in wages they pay you. That means you're worth up to \$2,400 to them.

The Empowerment Zone provides us with the tools as a community to make our neighborhoods better and our businesses stronger. Most importantly, it will make you more valuable as an employee and it helps you get your

foot in the door for a job interview. For more information about these tax credits or to learn more about work training programs, visit the website at www.cityoftucson.org/oed or call the Office of Economic Development at 791-5093.

? For more information contact Karla Timmons, Community Services Department, Community Development Division at 791-4636 or visit our website at <http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/csd/>



The City of Tucson is continuing to work with the Tucson Pima Arts Council (TPAC) on the feasibility of the proposed South Park Neighborhood Arts & Culture Center. City staff is currently looking into the viability of developing a center that would be self sufficient through earned income and outside funding sources.

One of the many components in the revitalization plan is to increase the quality of life for public housing residents, and neighbors of the South Park area by creating a community Arts & Culture Center where the community can go learn about the arts and culture.

We'll keep you posted on the progress!

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HOPE VI SOUTH PARK HOME IMPROVEMENT LOAN PROGRAM



The City of Tucson and Wells Fargo Bank are pleased to support the HOPE VI South Park neighborhood through a new home improvement loan program.

- ? Owner-occupants borrow from \$5,000 to \$65,000 as low as 0% interest!
- ? Eligible work includes repairs , additions, accessibility & energy efficiency items!
- ? City staff available to assist with application process!
- ? Participate in exciting neighborhood revitalization!
- ? Residents of HOPE VI South Park neighborhood eligible to apply!
- ? Applicants' income cannot exceed 80% of HUD area median income limits!
- ? Partnership includes: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Wells Fargo Bank, City of Tucson/Community Services Department
- ? Mobile/modular homes eligible if permanently affixed to land!
- ? Interest subsidy funded by CDBG



GIRL SCOUTS

Would you like to be a Girl Scout? Join the new Girl Scout troop for girls from South Park! Brownies (grades 1-3) and Juniors (grades 4-6) are invited to join this Girl Scout troop and learn new skills, make new friends, and go on fun field trips! This is a free program thanks to generous funding from Hope VI. Meeting dates, times and location to be announced. For more information, please call Wendy Beals Nielsen at 319-3176. (Spanish contact: Virginia Yslas 319-3158)

Sonoran S.O.A.R.E.



Sonoran S.O.A.R.E. is an outdoor wilderness survival program that gives children between the ages of 10-17 experience in adventurous activities such as: mountain biking, Tucson Police Department's ropes course, fishing, swim qualification, horseback riding and camping. The program is designed to teach children to survive in the wilderness and apply these survival skills to real life. For seven weeks on Tuesday and Thursday evenings the participants meet with the staff for exercise and preparation for the activity of the week. The activity is done on Saturdays and usually lasts all day. The final activity of the cycle is a camping trip to Patagonia. Transportation is provided if necessary. For more information, please contact Rodrigo Mendez at 791-2507.

City of Tucson Parks & Recreation



Quincie Douglas Teen Club \ In-betweeners Club

Who: Quincie Douglas \ Teen Club \ Inbetweeners Club

What: Club for youth ages 12-16 yrs old

Where: Quincie Douglas Center 1575 E. 36th Street

When: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Some Friday or Saturday.

Time: 4pm-7: 30pm

A little about our club:

- ? The club gives back to the community and does varies citywide community volunteer projects.
- ? Sports events are a big part of are activities during our monthly calendar. If were not at a U of A Game were playing Sports.
- ? Guest Speakers are a very imports part of our club. We learn about different subjects like health, drugs, leadership skills, careers and more.

- ? We have homework help every Monday. & Wednesday's to help with school work.

We will be having a teen dance in September. The club will be planning and putting together a teen dance to invite other clubs and your friend from school. These are only some of the activities we do, so come check us out this fall (**August 19,2003 at 4pm**). We will have a prize for anyone who brings a friend. We are looking forward to see you there.

For more information:

Elizabeth \ Manny
791-2507 \ Ask for Grant Office

HOPE VI –SOUTH PARK –CHIP-INN HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

In conjunction with HOPE VI South Park the City of Tucson is now accepting applications for a housing repair program for low/moderate income households exclusively within the HOPE VI South Park boundaries. Applicants must **own and occupy the dwelling** to be repaired and household income must not exceed certain federal income limits. Repair funds up to a maximum of \$25,000.00 are available to eligible applicants. **The applicant is required to provide a share of the repair costs in the minimum amount of 10% of the scope of work.** Assistance may be provided to eligible applicants in the form of an interest rate subsidy to secure a private market loan to cover their required contribution. Required rehabilitation work must at a minimum correct all existing deficiencies of the following major systems: heating, cooling, plumbing, electrical, roof, structural and other deficiencies as may be required to meet program design criteria. All rehabilitation work will be preformed by private licensed and insured contractor(s). A competitive bid process will determine the amount of the rehabilitation cost. To request an application or for more information on this program contact:

Community Services Department
HOPE VI South Park Section
791-4742

Deadline for submitting application is September 30, 2003

City of Tucson
Community Conservation and Development's

RESIDENTIAL DEMOLITION PROGRAM

Owners of residential properties that have been vacant for at least the past six (6) months might want to consider a **FREE** service available from the City of Tucson – whereby eligible structures can be demolished **at no cost to the owner!**

The benefits to the owner, neighborhood and community can be numerous and long-lasting. Potential benefits include:

- ? Reduced liability to owner;
- ? Enhanced development opportunities;
- ? Eliminates fire hazard;

- ? Reduced need for police scrutiny;
- ? Eliminates possible site for neighborhood blight;
- ? Reduced likelihood for illegal/unsafe activities;
- ? Increased resale value by reducing buyer costs;
- ? Reduces 'site prep' costs.



To take advantage of this rare opportunity – and at the same time enhance your investment and marketability of the property – **act now and call for an application package!!**

Funding for this program is limited and all applications will be processed on a "first come, first serve" basis. For more information and an Application Package, call **Tom Ingram, Senior Project Coordinator, at (520) 791-4636, ext. #304 TODAY!**



Who do I call about HOPE VI information?

HOPE VI staff may be reached at 791-5364 and are located at 310 North Commerce Park Loop (just west of I-10 and the Santa Cruz River, between Congress and St. Mary's), in the Santa Rita Building. HOPE VI is composed of the following staff: Dave Shepherd, Ray Quihuis, Jenise Lopez, Edna Duran, Jane Bell.